55-1941
The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

CALIFORNIA

Whites File Claim For Pot Of Gold Found By Negro

MAR 7 1941

OAKLAND, Calif. (ANP) — One morning, a year ago, as he went to work, George W. Leggett was just a lowly, WPA worker, but before many hours passed he had discovered the "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Leggett was working with other WPA men, wrecking a house at 866 Willow Street, on the site of a Housing Authority slum-clearance project. Suddenly, Leggett felt his shovel strike something hard, and digging deeper, he soon unearthed an old pot filled with gold. With feverish haste he seized his prize, reported its find to the proper officials, then went to his lawyer, Jay Maurice, for advise.

Attorney Maurice, also colored, turned the gold valued at more than $1,500 over to the U. S. Mint and Leggett was given a receipt for it, which he still possesses. Soon as the news of Leggett's find became generally known a long list of white claimants began to appear, among them a patrolman, a physician, the local Housing Authority, and "all persons claiming an interest in the property."

MAR 7 1941

Last week, bringing the mater to a head, a suit to "quiet title" was brought in Superior Court by Attorney Arthur G. Potter, Jr, (white) in behalf of Mrs. Sarah A. Lilley, 81 years old, who says she believes the gold was secreted in the building 20 years ago, by her late husband.

In the suit she asks that her claim to the gold be recognized and that claims of all other persons be rejected. A year ago, shortly aftee his lucky find, Leggett asked the Oakland Township Court for a ruling to determine ownership of the gold, but the matter has remained undetermined. Meanwhile, he retains his receipt from the U. S. Mint, keeps his fingers crossed, puts his faith in the old adage: "Possession is nine points of the law."

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

6 YR. OLD GIRL HEIR TO $150,000

MAY 24 1941
MAY 24 1941 MAY 26 1941
MAY 24 1941

MIAMI, Fla. — Four hundred and fifty thousand dollars is an "awful pile" of money for any young American to possess these days, but that is the amount of the fortune to which a 6-year-old colored girl has become heiress in the state of Florida.

Susie Augusta Dorsey is the name of the child heiress who was only six years old at her last birthday. By the death of her foster parents she becomes the sole inheritor of an estate of more than $150,000, according to papers which were filed in probate court at Miami this week.

Speculation is rife as to whether the child heiress will be able to hold on to her wealth as inevitable "friends", white and colored, push forward with advice and offers of help in the management of possessions. Then, too, Florida's color prejudice is a very real and vicious thing. Will it operat to swindle the colored orphan girl her inheritance?

MAY 24 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

3 MORE MILLIONAIRES

THE NEGRO RACE may boast of three more millionaries as a result of a ten-year legal battle over the estate of the Late Colvin, an American Indian, in which is due $7,413,286 in cash royalties from oil lands in Oklahoma. The court recognized Mrs. Azora Alexander Le, half sister of Claremore, Okla., and Floyd and Willie Mayweather, nephews of the late Joe Stevens, Late Colvin's husband, as the nevt of kin and recognizes them as her rightful heirs. Mrs. Lee will receive half the estate and the other half will be divided between the two brothers.

NOV 8 1941

The story had unusual news interest, as have all stories of good fortune, but it also had unusual interest from the racial angle too, not alone because it again proves that not all Negroes are not poor but also because it brought into the limelight the close relations between the American Indian and American Negro.

55

We hear a lot about the "vanishing Indian," but what has happened to the original inhabitants of this continent is not that they have died out but that they have, to a large extent, inter-married with the Negro race. A mulatto is usually considered the issue froh the union of a Negro and white person but in the strict sense of the word, a mulatto may be the child of any two persons of different races. There are as much or more of a mixture of Negro and Indian blood in this country as there is of Negro and Caucasian bloon. And in Mexico and the countries of South and Central America, the former Africans are even more closely mixed with the obirigines.

NOV 8 1941

What has happened to the Indian will, in the course of a hundred years or so, happen to the American Negro. There will be few, if any pure-blooded Negroes left in this country, nor will there be any other racial groups wh ocan boast of a pure racial strain. A new race is evolving in this country which in the course of time may be closer to the peoples that Columbus found hre when he first discovered the new world, than to any other present day race.

Those of us of the Negro race stand to benefit by this amalgamation of the races, in that as the mixing of the various racial groups in this country continues, prejudice against the darker races is bound to decrease.

In the meantime, we are happy to add three millionaires to our racial group.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Wins $10,000 Suit

JAN 30 1941

Henry James, one-legged Macon Negro, won a judgment for $10,000 against another Negro, W. B. Miller Jr., in city court yesterday.

James charged that he lost his leg because of injuries sustained when he was hit by a car driven by Miller as he was pushing a crippled man in a wheel chair on Montpelier avenue.

Judge Cecil A. Baldwin dismissed James' suit as to a second defendant, W. P. Thomas, Negro undertaker who employed Miller. R. L. Horne and D. L. Churchwell represented James and Lewis, Daly and Shell represented the defendants.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Returns Fortune To The Land From Which He Made It

NOV 9 1941

WAVERLY HALL, Ga.—(ANP)—A successful white lumber business man who recently retired, made a gift of $600,000 to small colleges in small communities, for the purpose of providing better facilities for educational purposes. W. I. H. Pitts, the lumber man who made quite a fortune in the business, explained his gift by saying, "The Lord has given me the special gift of making money and now I want to return some of my wealth to further the work of the Lord."

He also made provision for an annual gift of $100 to the local Negro Methodist church in recognition of the part which Negroes have played in his business in an endeavor to enlist their aid in perpetuating his wealth.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

CHICAGOANS TO FIGHT FOR BIG OIL FORTUNE

NOV 2 1941

Says Indian Was His Wife

A Chicago contractor has secured the services of a lawyer and a detective to convince the Oklahoma court that he is entitled to a part or all of a seven million dollar fortune that recently was given by the court to Willie and Floyd Mayweather, two brothers of Kansas City, Kan., and Mrs. Ozora Alexander, of Claremore Okla.

Mitchell Knighten, 4232 Calumet avenue, a roofing contractor, claims that he is the husband and heir to Lete Clovin, an Indian woman whose estate, valued at $7,413,286, has been the subject of court litigation for the last ten years.

Court Makes Award

The decision of the Oklahoma court last week awarded the oil producing properties located at Claremore, Okla., to Mrs. Lee, half sister of the Indian woman, and to the Mayweather brothers, who are nephews of Joe Stevens, husband of the Indian woman.

NOV 2 1941

The rub comes over the mention of the name of Joe Stevens who was supposed to have been, and the court so found, the husband of the wealthy Indian woman. But Knighten complains that he knows nothing about this Joe Stevens and says that he can prove that he was married to the woman in June of 1907.

In the Mayweather complaint it was alleged that the woman was married to Joe Stevens prior to 1906. She died in 1920. Stevens died one year later.

Indian His Wife

Mr. Knighten has a different slant on matters pertaining to the legal side of the case, which if proved to be true, will upset the applecart of the Mayweather boys and start them back on another long journey through the courts. Knighten declares that the woman died in 1917 at the hands of a jealous Indian when he put a bullet in her body during a jealous rage. He says he is sure of his facts for he and Leta farmed while they were living together as man and wife until 1912. It was then that he left for Louisiana because of the illness of his brother.

Knighten said that the matter of finance has prevented him from pressing his claim through the courts.

He is represented by Atty. George C. Adams. Sheridan Brusseaux is the special investigator working on the case.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Victim Of City Of San Francisco Wreck Given $8,000 Damages

NOV 15 1941

By Staff Correspondent

CHICAGO, Nov. 13.—James E. Gravely, 5136 South Parkway, former waiter on the ill-fated streamlined western flyer, "The City of San Francisco," was awarded $8,000 damages last week for the permanent injuries he received when the train suddenly plunged partly into the Humbolt river near Harney, Nev., August 12, 1939, at which time 27 people were killed and 115 were injured. Of that number, 11 colored people lost their lives and seven were injured.

Gravely's award is the largest one obtained by either a white or colored person who sued the Chicago & Northwestern, Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific lines for damages. This was due largely, it is admitted, to the legal sagacity of Attorney M. Ray Grubbs, chief counsel in the case, and Attorney Houston H. Hall, associate counsel, in the handling of the case against a battery of high salaried railroad lawyers.

SUIT FILED LAST YEAR

In his suit, filed last December, against the three railroads, Gravely claimed that just prior to the accident the train was going at a tremendous rate of speed and virtually leaped from the tracks just as it approached the Humbolt river around a 30-degree curve. He was serving at the time and, by sheer luck alone, happened to be in the coach next to the one which plunged into the river. By some miracle, he was actually thrown free of the coach, but was so badly injured he was unconscious for 16 days. Fourteen months of hospitalization followed.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

CHICAGO NEGRO CLAIMS SHARE IN SEVEN MILLIONS

OCT 27 1941

Asserts He's Widower of Rich Indian Woman.

A Chicago Negro yesterday asserted he was the husband and a rightful heir of Lete Kolvin, Creek Indian whose estate of $7,413,286 in cash plus oil producing properties was awarded by an Oklahoma court Friday to her half sister and two nephews of her supposed husband, now dead.

OCT 27 1941

The claimant is Mitchell Knighten, 54 years old, a quiet spoken man proud of the fact that he owns his home at 4232 Calumet avenue. He has been a roofing contractor here for 15 years.

"I just didn't ever have the money to get my rights," Knighten said. "In 1930 I raised $100 and went to Oklahoma and gave it to a lawyer, but he told me to go home and wait. Nothing happened. Last year I got another lawyer in Tulsa,, Okla., but I've had to earn a living here."

Advised to Await Decision.

He displayed a letter he received last year from the second attorney, stating that it was too late to intervene in the 20-year-old case then on trial, and advising him to await a decision before going into court.

Knighten told his new representatives, Attorney George C. Adams and Investigator Sheridan Bruseaux, that he can lay his hands on documentary evidence of his marriage, of his wife's previous divorce from an Indian, and of a grazing lease to prove it was her land which has been producing oil since 1915.

There have been many claimants to the estate. The case seesawed toward a decision amidst complications caused by the use of several names by Lete Kolvin.

Wife Known by Several Names.

"When I met her at Okemah, Okla., in 1907 she was known as Lete Kolvin and as Lydia Field, too, because she had been living with an old Indian family named Field," Knighten said. "And when a man she called her uncle went with me to get the marriage license June 7, 1907, he gave her name as Nofils—altho he couldn't spell it. She didn't have any folks, and stayed around with different families, so she got to be known by different names.

"We did farming. In 1912 I went to Louisiana, where my brother had his death sickness. I got letters from her and in 1915 she wrote me to come home because she had oil land and a lot of money."

An Indian who was friendly with Lete killed her with Knighten's own shotgun upon hearing of the husband's return, the claimant said. He said that the killer was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in the state penitentiary at McAlester by a court at Okmulgee in 1917.

Has 20 Witnesses, He Says.

"I was at the trial," Knighten said. "This Indian was paroled in 1924, but is in again for another killing. He is only one of the 20 witnesses I could find who knew that I was Lete's husband."

District Judge C. O. Beavers held that one-half of the estate should go to Lete's half sister, Mrs. Ozora Alexander Lee, 65 years old, and one-fourth each to two nephews of Lete's supposed husband, Joe Stevens, a Negro.

"I never heard of Joe Stevens," Knighten said bitterly. "I sure was Lete's husband, as legal as anything can be."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.
NOV 1 1941

Federal Judge Awards Sum To Kin of Indian

Oil Companies Ordered To Pay Amount in Cash To Stockyards Workers

KANSAS CITY, Kan. —Two stockyards laborers and a 65-year-old Indian widow are really in the chips! The goddess of fortune, pointing blindly, decreed for one of the few instances in modern history that persons who aren't white should be millionaires.

Nearly seven and a half million dollars to be divided between three persons—two Negroes, and an Indian! The unbelievable story, so fantastic that many are still dismissing it as a fairy tale concoction to make folk feel good, came true last week in Federal district court where Judge C. O. Beavers, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, ruled that the fortune of the deceased Lete Kolvin, Indian woman, should go to Ozora Alexander Lee, her half sister; and Willie Mayweather, 33, and Floyd Mayweather, 37, brothers.

NOV 1 1941

55-1941

MISSISSIPPI

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Miss. Court Awards Man $5,000 Damages Against Ex-Sheriff

MERIDIAN, Miss., June 12—An order was issued in Chancery Court here Tuesday, to forfeit Sheriff G. W. Parks of Leake County and the National Surety Corporation of New York which furnished his offical bond, to pay Dave Reed, Negro, $5,000 for a pistol wound allegedly inflicted by Deputy Sheriff Hayes Tucker when Reed fled in a raid on a dice game.

At the time of the shooting, the defense had countered to Reed's suit, Tucker was not a deputy but a private citizen and, while out searching for a strayed mule, saw Reed running and in trying to stop him, a pistol he, Tucker, was carrying, was accidentally discharged, wounding Reed in the shoulder.

The wound, Reed's attorneys contended, was a critical one, totally and permanently disabling him. Finding of the court was in favor of Reed.

JUN 14 1941

Argus
St. Louis, Missour:

Wills $17000 to 3 Faithful Employees

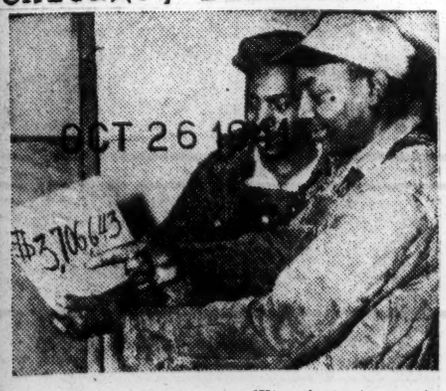
Late Paul Brown's Widow Leaves Cook $11,000

Three faithful colored employes were remembered in the will of the late Mrs. George C. Radford which was filed in Clayton last Monday. To Mrs. Betty Crump, for many years her cook, she bequeathed $11,000. To Mr. and Mrs. George and Mary Carr, who succeed Mrs. Crump, she left $3,000 each.

JAN 31 1941

Mrs. Radford, daughter of the late Paul Brown, broker, died on Jan. 23. Mrs. Crump entered the service of her family when they lived in Marshall, Mo., 29 years ago. She came to St. Louis with the family and was retired in 1929. Since then Mrs. Crump has lived at her home in Bunceton, Mo., with her husband and her late daughters' ten children. She is a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and well known resident of that town. Mrs. Crump is about 65 years old.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois



OCT 26 1941

$3,706,643

[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

Floyd (left) and Willie Mayweather, Kansas City, packing house workers, who won $3,706,643 by a court judgment. Their share is half of an Oklahoma oil property in dispute since 1931.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

'MILLIONS? US? SAY IT SLOWER!' WIFE ENTREATS

Sudden Riches Bowl Over Two Negro Families.

OCT 26 1941

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 25 [Special].—Two Negro brothers and their wives were recovering slowly today from the shock of learning they are millionaires. An Indian woman who will share the fortune with them accepted the news with stoical calm.

The negro brothers are Willie and Floyd Mayweather, packing plant employés here, and the Indian woman is Mrs. Ozora Alexander Lee of Claremore, Okla. A court ruling yesterday in Sapulpa, Okla., awarded the three a $7,413,286 oil fortune—in cash—and 160 acres of oil land which once had been allotted to a half-sister of Mrs. Lee. The three also will share 15 oil wells and shops and machinery which produced the wealth.

Willie's Struck Speechless.

The ruling, which was the climax of a 10 year lawsuit, ordered the Sinclair and Minnehoma oil companies to pay the three the cash sum for royalties and interest on oil and gas produced from the land since 1915. Attorneys estimated the total value of the estate at between 10 and 15 million dollars. Mrs. Lee will receive half of the estate and each brother will receive one-fourth. She said, however, she did not "feel any different." raise cattle."

Willie Mayweather was struck speechless when he received news of his sudden wealth. Then he began grinning and finally the words came.

"Ah guess," he said slowly, "ah'd like to buy a ranch in Kansas and raise cattle. Ah want to hold on to mah money."

His brother, Floyd, wanted a chicken ranch. Then he was struck with a thought he hadn't worried about as a day laborer. His brow wrinkling, he observed: "Co'se Uncle Sam'll get most of it. He'll build himself a lot of tanks with our taxes, all right."

Willie's wife learned the news from a reporter at her home.

The Wife's Dizzy.

"Ah'm dizzy," she wailed. "Scuse me."

The door slammed, but a minute later reopened slowly as the colored woman clutched it with shaking hands. She explained: "Ah fainted. Everything got black. Now tell it to me again. And slower."

She knew what she'd do with the money, she said. She would have a house with plumbing, and the house would be on a paved street.

But it was a different story around the corner where Floyd's estranged wife, Estella, received the news.

"But where do Ah come in?" she asked. "Ah'm divorcing Floyd.

"But there's the alimony business. Ah's asking $7 a week alimony, but man, you'se a fool if you think Ah ain't gonna hurry right down first thing in the morning and do a little manipulatin' with that figure."

OCT 26 1941

The Times
London, England

RACES

No Diamonds, No Dames

A Standard Oil expert once said he would drink all the oil you could find in the red-bed country of Oklahoma. Like many a white man, he was wrong. By 1920 oil was pouring from Oklahoma's Indian reservations. Like all her tribe, Lete Kolvin owned 160 acres of reservation land, but she never got rich herself. She married a Negro, died poor, left her 160 acres tied up in lawsuits.

NOV 3 1941

Last week in Sapulpa, Okla. a judge instructed the Sinclair and Minnehoma oil companies to pay to the heirs of Lete Kolvin $7,413,286 in cash, and to surrender the 160 acres of Oklahoma land, a gasoline plant, and 15 producing wells. Half of Lete's fortune went to her 65-year-old half sister. The other half went to Willie and Floyd Mayweather, nephews of Lete's husband.

Reporters rushed to find Willie and Floyd. They found two strapping young Negroes, 34 and 27—family men, "not hell-raising gents," they modestly described themselves—working in a Kansas City packing plant. Neighbors also dropped in, expecting that there would be a party.

NOV 3 1941

"Ain't going to be no party," said Willie firmly, and Floyd solemnly nodded.

"Furthermore," said Willie firmly, "we ain't buying anything."

"Amen," said solemn Floyd.

"No diamonds."

"Amen."

"No loud clothes, no gold watches, no high-class dames," said Willie firmly.

"Amen," said Floyd. He glanced at Willie's wife, pondered the future of no parties, no buying, no diamonds, no loud clothes, no gold watches, no high-class dames, then said, with the resolution of a man who has just inherited $1,853,326. "Amen."

Acme

HEIRS FLOYD & WILLIE MAYWEATHER
"Amen," said resolute Floyd.

NOV 3 1941

CONSUMERS

Oil Shortage (?) Over

The filling-station curfew (TIME, Sept. 22, *et ante*), which had annoyed the Eastern Seaboard and aroused more shouts of outrage than anything Harold Ickes had done since the last time, was called off last week.

Mr. Ickes announced that the British, doing better in the Battle of the Atlantic, would soon (by next month) return 40 of the 80 tankers they had got from the U.S. This addition to the U.S. tanker fleet, plus the savings effected by the curfew and a 10% cut in deliveries to dealers, said Mr. Ickes, ended the threat of oil shortage for the Eastern Seaboard.

To connoisseurs of Ickes-hating, the announcement was a particularly choice tidbit, iridescent with proof that the oil shortage had existed only in Mr. Ickes' mind. Ickes' assistants philosophically reminded themselves of what they had said all along: that if they succeeded in averting a shortage, they would forever be damned because no shortage arrived.

Would there really have been a shortage? There was no way of telling for sure. But the U.S. may still find out. If the Battle of the Atlantic again reaches last spring's fury, Britain will get the tankers back and the Eastern Seaboard will again get Mr. Ickes.

NOV 3 1941

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Two Young Millionaires!

Two brothers, both under 30 years of age, stand to get some three and a half million dollars within the next few weeks. Needless to say this is a lot of money, and the amount of real service it can accomplish if properly used is unlimited. We don't know of any case on record where a Negro has come into possession of so much money at one time; we doubt if there is any single Negro in America whose cash reaches such a staggering total.

We suppose by now the Mayweather boys, heirs to the oil fortune, have had hundreds of propositions. But we suspect a salesman would have to be mighty persuasive to sell them on any idea of making money.

One million is enough to assure the boys and their families a comfortable living for the rest of their lives, with some to spare. There is much they can do toward helping stabilize the economic condition of the race by investing at least a part of the money. We hope the brothers will be wise enough to seek honest and competent counsel for their future dealings. The desire to "do something for my race," as expressed by one of them, we believe, is correct thinking.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Contractor Charges He Was Husband Of Indian

TULSA, Okla.—(ANP)—The action of Mitchell Knighten, Chicago building contractor, in challenging Sapulpa court's disposition of the $15,000,000 oil holdings of a deceased Indian woman halted the payment of $7,413,286 to the half sister and two nephews of the deceased woman. Knighten's suit, an outright claim, was filed in United States district court here November 1 against Sinclair Oil and Gas company, Sinclair Prairie Oil company, Reserve Development company and Minnehoma Oil and Gas company for full possession of the 160 acres of oil producing property in Creek county.

Ruling that the late Lete Kelvin died in 1930 and her husband was killed the following year in a car accident, Judge C. O. Beaver in the Sapulpa decision awarded the estate to Mrs. Izora Alexander Lee of Claremont, Okla., as half sister to the deseased woman, and to surviving nephews, Willie and Floyd Mayweather, Kansas City, Mo., packing house workers.

Knighten makes the claim that he married Lete Kelvin in 1907 and that she was known thereafter as Lete Knighten, Lydia Field, Lydia Monahwee, and Little Moffer. He stated that he lived with the Indian woman until 1912 when he went to Louisiana because of a brother's illness. He further claims that she died in 1917, a victim of a jealous Indian lover.

According to the claim of the Mayweather brothers, Lete Kolvin was supposed to have married a Joe Stevens before 1906 and she died in 1930 and Stevens was killed in 1931.

While it does not mention the Sapulpa findings, Knighten's suit, however, ties up the estate pending settlement of his claims. If the federal court upholds the claim, the entire estate will go to Knighten.

Representing Knighten are: Attys. George C. Adams, Chicago; A. B. Honnold and Jay W. Whitney. A secretary, bodyguard and special investigator, Sheridan Bruseaux have also been retained by Knighton

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Chicagoan's Suit Halts Settlement of Oil Fortune

TULSA, Okla.—(ANP)—The action of Mitchell Knighten, Chicago building contractor, in challenging a Sapulpa court's disposition of the oil holdings of a deceased Creek Indian woman halted the payment of $7,413,286 to her half sister and two nephews.

Knighten's suit, an outright claim, was filed in United States District Court here November 7 against Sinclair Oil and Gas Company, Sinclair Prairie Oil Company, Reserve Development Company and Minnehoma Oil and Gas Company for full possession of the 160 acres of oil-producing property in Creek County.

Ruling that Mrs. Lete Kolvin Stevens died in 1930 and her husband Joe Stevens, was killed the following year in a car accident, Judge C. O. Beaver in the Sapulpa decision awarded the estate to Mrs. Izora Alexander Lee of Claremont, Okla., and to Willie and Floyd Mayweather, Kansas City, Mo., packing house workers.

Says She Died in 1917

Knighton claims that he married Miss Kolvin in 1907 and that he lived with her until 1912 when he went to Louisiana because of a brother's illness. He further claims that she died in 1917, victim of a jealous Indian lover.

While it does not mention the Sapulpa findings, Knighten's suit, however, ties up the estate pending settlement of his claims. If the Federal Court upholds the claim, the entire estate will go to Knighten.

Representing Knighten are George C. Adams, Chicago; A. B. Honnold and Jay W. Whitney. A secretary, bodyguard and special investigator, Sheridan Bruseaux, have also been retained by Knighten.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

"Lady Luck" laid their millions on the line, So you can bet your life, they'll be treated fine Their blackness now, will "cut no figger," For with all that money, None will call them "N-g-g-r"!

After a ten year law suit, Ozara Lee, 65 years old, and Willie and Floyd Mayweather, 33 and 37 years old, received settlement in cash of $7,413,286 and valuable oil producing properties from an oil company. She was the sister of Lete Kolvin and the two brothers were nephews of Joe Stevens, Lete's Negro husband. The Mayweathers work in a packing house in Kansas City. They will get nearly four million dollars! Oh boy, what joy!

Unknown now, the words of a song,
But you can bet your life,
They won't be so long.

55-1941
The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

MISSOURI

Okla. Judge Denies New Trial In Million Dollar Oil Purse

DEC 19 1941

Judge C. O. Beaver of the Oklahoma district court, Monday overruled twenty-two motions for a new trial in the settlement of the fifteen-million-dollar estate of the late Lete Kolvin, Creek Indian woman. Judge Beaver, in a recent decision, ruled that half the estate should go o Floyd and Willie Mayweather, brothers, of Kansas City. Kansas. Last October there was quite a stir among Kansas Citians when it was learned that they had in their midst these two potential millionaires. The two Mayweather brothers are employed at the Swift Packing Plant where they continued on their jobs despite the fact that they are heirs to Oklahoma oil millions.

Half of the fifteen million dollar estate will go to Izora Alexander Lee, an aunt of the Mayweather brothers and a half sister to Lete Kolvin. The remaining half, $7,500,000.00, in cash and oil holdings, will come to Floyd and Willie Mayweather. Both men are married, Mrs. Estella Mayweather of North Fifth street is the wife of Floyd, and Willie Mayweather and his wife, Ernestine, live on North Sixth street.

Willie Mayweather was born in Columbus, Kansas. He is 33 years of age. Floyd Mayweather was born in Weir, Kansas. He is 27 years of age. They are the sons of Rachel and Nelson Mayweather, Sr. They came to Kansas City 17 years ago where Floyd attended school. He played basketball at Northeast junior high school and then attended Summer high. They are members of the Bethel Baptist church.

DEC 19 1941

The Sinclair Prairie Oil company, Minnehoma Oil company, Reserve Oil company, and individuals named defendants in the suit had asked the new trial. They gave notice of appeal to the state supreme court.

The estate consists of a 160-acre rocky Indian allotment in the heart of the Drumright oil field and $7,413,-286 in cash. The decision dividing it between the Mayweather brothers and the Lee group of claimants climaxed a 10-vear legal battle.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Quiet Little Lady Dies; Surprises Friends, Church With $15,000 Will

JAN 23 1941

By ALFRED A. DUCKETT

BROOKLYN, N. Y. — The breath had passed from the fragile form of 81-year-old Dora Roames last week and a yellowed will told the story of her life of scrimping and saving, of her generous reward to loyal friends and how she had given her last full measure of devotion to works of good.

Almost like a fairy tale reads the simple history of the Brooklyn spinster, a retired music teacher who lived a solitary life in the three family house she owned at 689 Hancock street in Brooklyn.

It was an amazing sequel when word spread that the recluse had left a $15,000 estate which went in almost equal portions to two long-time friends and to a church she had attended but once.

Church Receives Home

Beneficiaries of the Roames bequests were Mrs. Adele Richardson and Mrs. Lena Hargraves who will receive equal shares of an estimated $10,000 in cash; and the Greater Bridge Street A.M.E. church, Stuyvesant and Jefferson avenues, which was willed the Hancock street property valued at more than $5000.

Born in Rhode Island, Mrs. Roames was veritably a lifetime Brooklynite. Brought here in her infancy, she lived with her parents, prominent borough residents, at 7½ Stuyvesant avenue.

In 1925 upon the death of her mother, she realized a nest egg of $14,500 from the sale of the Stuyvesant avenue property and bought the Hancock street home for $10,000 cash.

For 25 years Adele Richardson had been her hairdresser. In 1933 Mrs. Roames came to Mrs. Richardson's home at 76 Marion street, turned the keys over to the beautician and asked the latter to care for her.

For those seven years Mrs. Richardson had been friend, confidante and nurse to the spinster receiving nothing, asking nothing.

Neighbors of the deceased tell the story of the quiet life Mrs. Roames lived. Never in the world would they have suspected her of having "saved up" anything, they marvel. She did all the chores about the house herself, attended her own furnace, emptied ashes and went about her methodical, uneventful life. The lower floors of her home were rented to tenants. No one invaded the solitude of her top-floor apartment save Mrs. Richardson.

Thus, Brooklyn was "set on its ear" when word got about that Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Hargraves had been named administrators and beneficiaries of the estate.

Last New Years' eve, Mrs. Roames asked Mrs. Richardson to accompany her to Bridge Street church. Evidently she became impressed with the structure, a $50,000 recently purchased by the church under the leadership of the Rev. Mansfield E. Jackson. Seemingly wishing to do something to aid the institution, she changed an earlier will to bequeath her house, free and clear of any indebtedness to the church.

Hold Funeral Rites

With Rev. Jackson officiating at the services and Undertaker Wiley G. Overton in charge of funeral directions, Dora Roames was funeralized at Bridge Street in the presence of a record attendance of mourners on Friday.

In life she had kept to herself. In death with a generous gesture, she had won the love and gratitude of many.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
April 29, 1941

OLD TENNESSEE CLUB AWAITS TAX HAMMER

One Of 125 Delinquent Properties Facing Sale

REDEMPTION PERIOD ENDS

City And County Paid $6500 To Repair Old Building, Received Only $1850 Rent Since 1938

Memphis' aristocratic old Tennessee Club is included in the list of 125 delinquent tax properties advertised for sale by the City and Shelby County.

E. W. Hale, chairman of the Shelby County Commission, and Mayor Chandler jointly announced yesterday that the two-year right of redemption period authorized by law following tax foreclosure suits has expired on the club's building at Second and Court.

Rent In Arrears

Moreover, city finance figures show that the club has paid less than one-half of the rent owed the city and county for use of the building since Nov. 1, 1938, when the foreclosure was ordered.

Although the city-county billing of $150 a month has been regularly sent the club, it was revealed yesterday only $50 monthly has been paid for some time. Since Nov. 1, 1938, the city figures show $4500 rent charged and $1850 paid.

Last year the city and county spent $6500 repairing the building's roof and elevator. At that time the club was seriously delinquent in its rent.

Bob Church Owes

Other improved properties offered by the city and county for sale include some of the Beale Avenue property owned by Robert Church, negro Republican leader now in Pennsylvania. The bulk of the property offered is unimproved.

Bids will be taken until 12 o'clock noon, May 15, with the city and county reserving the right to make prior sales and reject all offers.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

White Woman Wills Her Maid $10,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—Miss Callie Haynes has been left a bequest of $10,000, an automobile and an electric refrigerator by Mrs. Carrie L. Herman, white, for whom she worked many years as maid, under terms of Mrs. Herman's will probated here last week.

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